

TOWN OF WALLACE
Continued meeting
June 25, 2020
6:00 p.m.

The Town Council of the Town of Wallace continued its monthly meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2020 in the Council Chambers.

The following Governing Body members were present:

Mayor Charles C. Farrior, Jr.
Council Member/ Mayor Pro-Tem Wannetta Carlton
Council Member Frank Brinkley
Council Member Jeffrey Carter
Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz
Council Member Jason Wells

The following Governing Body members were absent:
NONE

Also present were:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Larry Bergman, Town Manager | Anna Heath, Town Attorney |
| Jackie Nicholson, Town Clerk | Joseph Merritt |
| Felix Herring | |

Mayor Charley Farrior reconvened the meeting with a quorum of the governing body members present.

Addendum to the Depot Rental Agreement -COVID-19 Waiver

Town Manager Larry Bergman said the addendum had been drafted by the Town Attorney due to the pandemic as an additional precautionary measure. The Depot Commission has reviewed and approved it.

Council Member Frank Brinkley made a motion to adopt the proposed Addendum to the Depot Rental Agreement – COVID 19 Waiver which was seconded by Council Member Wannetta Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Consideration of Stage Stores Proof of Claim Filing

Town Attorney Anna Heath stated that she has been receiving documents related to the bankruptcy of Stage Stores (Peebles) and while there are no delinquent taxes there are

outstanding utility bills. Ms. Health asked for Council approval to file a claim to attempt to receive payment although the claim is unsecured and more than likely nothing will come of it.

Council Member Wells made a motion to allow the Town Attorney to file a claim in the Stage Stores (Peebles) bankruptcy. The motion was seconded by Council Member Francisco Rivas-Diaz and approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Pandemic/Cares Act Funding of Small Business Incentive Grants

Manager Bergman said that the Town is eligible for a \$65,000 distributed by Duplin County for COVID-19 related expenses. The funds have to be expended by December 31, 2020. Mr. Bergman added that the Town doesn't have that amount of expenses due to other reimbursements. He has proposed a Small Business Incentive Grant for businesses in Wallace that closed or suffered damages due to restrictions related to the pandemic. The business must have from 1-25 employees, be located in Wallace with at least one local owner and not have delinquent taxes or outstanding utility bills. Mr. Bergman said he is waiting to get approval from Duplin County and will move forward with an application process.

Strategic Planning Process: First Steps

Manager Bergman explained that since the budget process was interrupted by COVID-19 there wasn't time to do any strategic planning. One of the first steps is to determine if the Town's mission and vision statements are still important and relevant for the Council and asked if they needed to be changed. The Council suggested adding inclusivity and retaining industry and business. Mr. Bergman continued to discuss additional steps of establishing focus areas, community outcome/goals based on the focus areas, strategies and initiatives which would address those goals and action steps to take to reach the goals. He provided a Focus Areas Exercise for the Council.

Administrative Next Steps for Public Safety/Fire Department Facility

Manager Bergman informed the Council that a survey of the entire Town Hall "campus" has been completed and asked for approval to draft a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a design/build firm to begin working on a plan. The Council approved.

Downtown Historic Preservation/Protection Program

Manager Bergman briefly went through the different elements of the program: revolving loan, code enforcement, state and federal technical assistance, Town infrastructure projects and community involvement, establishing a committee, timeline and application. The Council also discussed and agreed to include "in-kind" contributions as matching funds. Some names were mentioned as potential committee members.

Other Business

Mr. Felix Herring provided the Council with cost estimates for repair to the roof on his building on Main St. Mr. Herring also said that he was told there was structural damage to the building. Mayor Farrior said that the Town would probably get an estimate for comparison and then talk with him to discuss the Town's contribution to the repair.

There being no further business to discuss. Council Member Wells made a motion to continue the meeting on Monday, June 29, 2020 at 11:00 am. The motion was seconded by Council Member Carlton and approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles C. Farrior, Jr., Mayor

Jacqueline Nicholson, CMC
Town Clerk